

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Allowed) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 41.

11. (Allowed) The vector of claim 10, wherein said vector is an expression vector.

12. (Allowed) The vector of claim 10 that is a prokaryotic vector.

13. (Allowed) The vector of claim 10 that is a eukaryotic vector.

14. (Allowed) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 10.

15. (Allowed) A host cell of claim 14 that is a prokaryotic cell.

16. (Allowed) A host cell of claim 14 that is a eukaryotic cell.

17-40. (Canceled)

41. (Allowed) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7;
- (c) a nucleotide sequence complementary to (a) or (b).

42. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to the sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of claim 41 and encodes a polypeptide that is capable of ~~binding~~ interacting with a peripheral-type benzodiazepine receptor (PBR).

43. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to the sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of claim 41 and encodes a polypeptide that is capable of regulating ~~steroid~~ progesterone biosynthesis.

44. (Previously Added) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to the sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of claim 41 and encodes a polypeptide that is capable of mediating cholesterol delivery.

45. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide that is capable of ~~binding~~ interacting with a peripheral-type benzodiazepine receptor (PBR) and hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid of claim 41 (a) or 41(b) under the following stringent conditions: a final wash in 0.1X SSC at 65°C.

46. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide that is capable of regulating ~~steroid~~ progesterone biosynthesis and hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid of claim 41 (a) or 41(b) under the following stringent conditions: a final wash in 0.1X SSC at 65°C.

47. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide that is capable of mediating cholesterol delivery and hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid of claim 41(a) or 41(b) under the following stringent conditions: a final wash in 0.1X SSC at 65°C.

48. (Allowed) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of either claim 15 or 16 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

49. (Allowed) The process of claim 48, wherein the vector further comprises a heterologous promoter operatively linked to the nucleotide sequence encoding the peripheral-type benzodiazepine-associated protein-7 (PAP7) polypeptide.

50. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 41, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

51. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a single-stranded nucleic acid of claim 41, wherein the nucleic acid is complementary and is ~~detectable~~ detectably labeled.

52. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a single-stranded nucleic acid of claim 41, wherein the nucleic acid amplifies peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) sequences.

53. (Previously Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 42.

54. (Previously Added) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 53.

55. (Previously Added) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of either claim 54 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

56. (Previously Added) A diagnostic reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

57. (Previously Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 43.

58. (Previously Added) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 57.

59. (Previously Added) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of claim 58 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

60. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 43, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

61. (Previously Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 44.

62. (Previously Added) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 61.

63. (Previously Added) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of claim 62 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

64. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 44, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

65. (Previously Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 45.

66. (Previously Added) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 65.

67. (Previously Added) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of claim 66 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

68. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 45, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

69. (Previously Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 46.

70. (Previously Added) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 69.

71. (Previously Added) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of claim 70 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

72. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 46, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.

73. (Previously Added) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of claim 47.

74. (Previously Added) A host cell comprising the vector of claim 73.

75. (Previously Added) A process of producing a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein (PAP) comprising culturing the host cell of claim 74 under suitable conditions to express a peripheral-type benzodiazepine-receptor-associated protein-7 (PAP7) encoded by the nucleic acid.

76. (Currently Amended) A ~~diagnostic~~ reagent comprising a nucleic acid of claim 47, wherein the nucleic acid is detectably labeled.